

Public Hearing on VFF-EMT 1
Relating to Amending Chapter VFF-EMT 1, Volunteer Fire Fighter-Emergency Medical
Technician Service Award Board
May 19, 2008
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 4B
101 E. Wilson Street, Madison

The Department of Administration has set at this time and place a public hearing pursuant to ss. 16.004(1), 16.25(2)(3)(4) and (5), and 227.11(2)(a), of the Wisconsin Statutes, to consider amending rules relating to amending Chapter VFF-EMT 1 relating to volunteer fire fighting and emergency medical technician service award board.

My name is Jim Langdon, Deputy Administrator of the Division of Enterprise Operations in the Department of Administration. With me is Mark Saunders, DOA Deputy Legal Counsel and Robert Seitz, Service Award Board Chairman.

In the May 1, 2008, issue of the Wisconsin Administrative Register, notice was given that a public hearing would be held on the emergency and permanent rulemaking orders proposed by the Department. Copies of the proposed rule have been provided to interested parties. In addition, copies of the hearing notice were hand-delivered to the Press Boxes located in Room 235 Southwest in the State Capitol Building on May 1, 2008.

The purpose of today's hearing is to give all interested persons or their representatives an opportunity to present facts, views or arguments regarding the proposed rules. In addition to today's testimony, the department will accept written comments or questions received by May 28, 2008. Please direct written comments to Terri Lenz, Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Operations, P.O. Box 7867 Madison, Wisconsin 53707 or at terri.lenz@wisconsin.gov.

The statutes require that all persons present at this hearing have an opportunity to present their arguments and comments to the agency officer responsible for promulgating these rules. The Secretary of the Department of Administration has final responsibility for promulgation of these proposed rules. The Secretary has determined that argument to him should be made in writing rather than by oral argument. Consequently, a transcript of this hearing will be prepared and provided to the Secretary, along with your written comments, prior to promulgation as required by s. 227.18(3), Stats.

The proposed rule reflects recent statutory changes as required by Act 142 making changes to the length of service award program for volunteer fire fighters, first responders and emergency medical technicians.

The proposed rule was submitted to the Wisconsin Legislative Council Clearinghouse on April 14, 2008, for their review, analysis and recommendations. The Legislative Council issued its report on the proposed rules on May 5, 2008. The Department has amended the rule to address all of the comments suggested by the Legislative Council.

I'll now go through the appearance slips to see who wants to give testimony on the rules. When I call your name, please come forward, state your name, who you are representing and if you are testifying in favor or in opposition to the proposed rules.